

EDITORIAL PAGE**Approach With Caution**

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Nobody knows how the idea of a foreign-service "peace corps" of young Americans would work out in actual practice. The corps members supposedly would be sent into under-developed nations to help them solve economic and other problems.

This might turn out to be a real bell-ringer in the field of foreign relations—a new frontier, shall we say?—or it could degenerate into one beautiful, wasteful, awful boon-doggie.

The suggestion first was served up by John F. Kennedy in a Nov. 2 speech in San Francisco when he said the "peace corps" might serve for its members as an alternative to the military draft.

There it lay through the days during which Senator Kennedy became President-elect Kennedy and until Saturday, when Dr. Max Millikan, director of the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gave Kennedy a report on the possibilities of the plan.

It isn't necessary to "bait" the proposal with draft exemption, said Dr. Millikan (Cheers for him!) because there will be enough eager volunteers to get it started anyway. We may add that as a refuge from military service, the "peace corps" would not necessarily attract the highest type of representative young Americans.



DR. MILLIKAN

A second constructive suggestion from Dr. Millikan is that the corps be started with a pilot operation, involving only a few hundred volunteers.

In other words, let's not commit ourselves to anything vast until we've had the benefit of actual field experience.

And even the personnel of the pilot program would have to be screened and rescreened.

Foreign service, unfortunately, attracts not only dedicated people, but also adventurers, dilettantes, leftwingers and outright bums whose dearest wish is to ride carefree on the public payroll far from the eye of direct supervision.

But if all the pitfalls of a youthful "peace corps" are allowed for, it may be worth a try.

Some of the loafers presently diverting foreign aid in some of the places around the globe have not been a notable success and have made us more enemies than friends.

CPYRGHT